



Notice of Proposed Best Value Grant Award

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announces its intention of a proposed grant award to the Island Alliance, a non-profit corporation. The proposed grant award would make available \$75,000 in financial assistance to support a proposed commitment by the Island Alliance to provide, operate and maintain (1) water ferry services from several mainland points to Georges Island, a DCR island, and (2) an inter-island water shuttle between Georges Island and several other DCR islands: Peddocks, Grape, Bumpkin and Lovells Islands. The proposed commitment would run in accordance with a schedule and term approved by the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership (BHIP) and DCR during the summer season of 2006 from, at a minimum, the water ferry services from May 6, 2006 through October 19, 2006 and the inter-island services from June 24, 2006 through September 4, 2006.

In accordance with 815 CMR 2.00 and MMARS Policy Procurement/Contracts (State Grants and Federal Sub-Grants, dated July 1, 2004) issued by the Office of the Comptroller, by this notice, DCR seeks to provide a public posting of certain information pertaining to this notice of intent to award a grant, including an appropriate justification for the award, and a public opportunity to allow for competitive responses or challenges to the proposal to award a grant to the Island Alliance.

Selected Grantee: Island Alliance, Inc.
408 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 228
Boston, MA 02110-3350

Grant Amount: \$75,000
(requires minimum 1-to-1 dollar for dollar private cash match).

Purpose of Grant Funding: The Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area was established by the United States Congress under Public Law 104-333 (found at 16 USC 460kkk), in part: to preserve for public use and enjoyment the lands and waters that comprise the area; to manage the area in partnership with, among others, the private sector, the Commonwealth, and surrounding municipalities; and to "improve access to the Boston Harbor Islands through the use of water transportation." DCR is a member

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Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

of the BHIP established by Congress and owns, on behalf of the Commonwealth, 17 of the 34 islands within the park area. Although DCR has care of such a substantial number of islands in the park area, DCR has not provided continuing water transportation services to the islands on the scale and value proposed due in part to the challenges and costs of operating a comparable service; and therefore, public access opportunities to these public resources are limited. The general outline of water transportation services proposed by the Island Alliance (in a letter to DCR dated February 27, 2006 and attached to this notice as "Attachment A") offers an impressive service and value to the public, and DCR finds that the proposal would substantially improve access to the islands, consistent with the federal legislation.

Scope of Performance: On terms and conditions acceptable to DCR, the grantee must provide, operate and maintain landside dockage facilities and:

(1) high quality water ferry services from multiple, accessible landside points along the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area to Georges Island, which has been identified by BHIP as an appropriate hub destination, offering at a minimum:

- (a) multiple vessels accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), capable of convenient boarding and unloading of passengers; licensed to carry a large volume of passengers (a minimum of 200 preferred); and able to travel at an efficient speed (preferably in excess of 20 knots per hour).
- (b) convenient routes and schedule (to be approved by DCR) running on at least an hourly basis from the minimum period of May 6, 2006 until October 19, 2006 from 9AM until 6PM;
- (c) modest fare plans with round-trip charges generally not to exceed: \$12 per adult; \$9 per senior (over 65) and child between 3-11 years; and \$6 per student; and **NO CHARGE** for children under 3 years; and other additional fare proposal that provide further discounts and promote access to the harbor islands, including a special fare program to provide **free of charge** passage for authorized staff, volunteers, approved contractors engaged in business related to the BHI national park area, and up to **3500 passengers** in accordance with requirements approved by DCR..

(2) high quality inter-island water shuttle services from Georges Island (the island hub destination) to Peddocks, Grape, Bumpkin and Lovells Islands, offering at a minimum:

- (a) **FREE OF CHARGE** to passengers using the service;

- (b) vessels accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), capable of convenient boarding and unloading of passengers; and able to travel at an efficient speed.
- (c) convenient routes and schedule (to be approved by DCR) running from the minimum period of June 24, 2006 through September 4, 2006 from 9AM until 6PM.

In providing these services, the grantee must contract with and meet all terms and conditions of DCR. Under the contract, the grantee and its approved contractors must agree to indemnify DCR for any claims for damages by third parties arising under the contract, must maintain sufficient insurance acceptable to DCR, such as workers' compensation, and general liability, naming the DCR and the Commonwealth as an additional insured.

Duration of the Grant: The grant would cover the above described 2006 season.

Justification: The proposed ferry and inter-island water transportation services are consistent with the goal of improving access to the harbor islands, as expressed in 16 USC 460kkk(a)(3) and by the BHIP. The proposal provides an important service and value for public access to publicly-owned DCR islands, which would otherwise not be provided during the 2006 season and which appears fair and reasonable and to be in the best interest of DCR and the Commonwealth. The proposal also provides a total value to DCR in excess of \$150,000, thereby leveraging \$75,000 in public funds to be provided by DCR with a \$75,000 non-public contribution, and efficiently provides for a public service in a manner and at a cost that could not be provided by DCR. DCR provides this notice, in part, for the purpose of allowing competitive proposals or challenges to the proposal; however, due to the recent receipt of the proposal and that the park area opens shortly, DCR did not believe that timing of the schedule would support a traditional grant round process.

Competitive Responses or Challenges: DCR intends to move forward with the described grant award to the Island Alliance unless a detailed competitive response or challenge is received in writing (not postmarked) at DCR by **4:00PM** on **March 22, 2006**. Any competitive response proposal to provide an equivalent or greater public service must be consistent with the terms described herein, must exceed the described "scope of

performance,” and clearly offer a better value to DCR, the Commonwealth and the public. Any such competitive response must be forwarded in writing by 4:00PM on March 22, 2006 to:

Karl Pastore
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Any questions during this period must be directed in writing to Karl Pastore at the above address, or by fax to 617-626-1301, or Karl.Pastore@state.ma.us. If a significant legitimate challenge is presented to DCR, consideration shall be afforded to conducting an alternative open public grant application process to address these considerations. Otherwise, if DCR finds that neither a written challenge nor a competitive response merits an alteration to the grant award, DCR intends to move forward with the proposed grant award contract.

Forms REQUIRED for execution prior to contract award may be found through the Operational Services Division at http://www.mass.gov/portal/index.jsp?pageID=osdmodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Aosd&b=terminalcontent&f=osd_forms&csid=Aosd. These include (listed on the web page as “contract forms” and “other worms – generally mandatory”), including: the Commonwealth Standard Terms and Conditions, the Commonwealth Standard Contract, the W-9 Verification of Taxation Reporting Information, Identification of Contracts with Commonwealth agencies or Subdivisions form.